

6 August 1968

Logistic Developments in the Panhandle of North Vietnam, 29 July - 4 August 1968Activities South of the 19th ParallelArmed Reconnaissance SortiesThis Week (29 July - 4 August) \*Last Week (22-28 July)

458 sorties per day

430 sorties per day

59 percent in Route Package I

56 percent in Route Package I

25 percent in Route Package II

25 percent in Route Package II

16 percent in Route Package III  
(below 19° North)19 percent in Route Package III  
(below 19° North)For the Period 1 January - 4 August 1968

254 sorties per day

60 percent in Route Package I

23 percent in Route Package II

17 percent in Route Package III \*\*

Weather \*\*\*

Above 19° North: Generally poor weather prevailed in the areas north of the 19th Parallel.

\* The rate of attack for the period 29 July - 4 August may be as much as five percent below the actual rate because some reports from operating units in Southeast Asia are not available at the time of publication.

\*\* Beginning 1 April nearly all sorties have been flown south of the 19th Parallel.

\*\*\* Good weather - 10,000 feet or more ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Fair weather - 5-10 thousand feet ceiling, and five miles or more visibility.

Poor weather - Less than 5,000 feet ceiling, and/or five miles or less visibility.

USAF and DIA review(s) completed.

Below 19° North: Good weather prevailed along the coastal basin areas south of the 19th Parallel, while generally poor weather extended over the higher elevations further inland.

Highways

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Trucks*</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (29 Jul - 4 Aug)	907	120	111
Last Week (22-28 July)	898	186	87
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	727	121	83
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	537	84	67

Remarks:

Sightings of trucks in the Panhandle of North Vietnam were again substantial this week with total traffic sightings about 25 percent greater than the weekly average noted since 1 April, but truck losses were only slightly above the weekly average. Truck sightings for the month of July were 28 percent greater than for June, while total attack sorties increased by 41 percent over comparable periods of time. The weather in the southern route packages of North Vietnam was not especially good during July so that the increase in sightings can in large part be attributed to increased traffic movements and not solely to the increase in sorties flown.

Concentrations of approximately 50 vehicles were sighted and attacked near the junction of Routes 101 and 137 during the nights of 31 July and

\* These are preliminary data, included to indicate trends in activity. Final data on trucks sighted, destroyed and damaged may be considerably greater, for the above compilations are based on incompleting reporting.

1 August. Similar large concentrations of trucks were noted in the same general area last week indicating that large numbers of trucks are continuing to use the major roads leading into southern Laos and the DMZ. Pilots, during the night of 29 July, also sighted two groups of trucks - one in excess of 20 vehicles - along the newly constructed Route 1036 south of Bat Lake. Attacks against these trucks resulted in numerous secondary explosions and fires indicating that the vehicles were probably moving ammunition into the western portion of the DMZ.

Roadwatch Teams

	Total Trucks Counted for Period		
	Latest Period	Previous Period	Weekly Average 1968
Route 15 [redacted]	(28 Jul - 2 Aug) None S; 85N	(19-27 Jul) 147S; 24N	196S; 161N *
Route 912	(28 Jul - 2 Aug) 69S; 41N	(22-27 Jul) ** 45S; 39N	NA

Remarks:

The team on Route 912 [redacted]

[redacted] The traffic it reports, therefore, may not represent all the traffic passing over the road past its position.

\* Includes information from reports from other teams positioned near the border from January - June 1968.

\*\* Up-dated figures.

Railroads

	<u>Preliminary Pilot Reports on Railroad Cars</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (29 Jul - 4 Aug)	48	0	4
Last Week (22-28 July)	0	0	0
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	14	1	2
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	30	3	6

Remarks:

Although pilots reported sighting 48 railroad cars during the past week, compared with none during the past three weeks, 38 of these are the ones which have been at Vinh since early June. The others were sighted near Bai Duc Thom, a major supply area at the junction of Routes 15 and 151, about 25 miles north of the Mu Gia pass. Attacks against the rail lines south of the 19th Parallel during the past week were concentrated against the railroad bridges at Dien Chau and Tam Da and the rail facilities at Vinh. Despite constant attacks against Dien Chau, repairs were noted at one of the four bridges.

Waterways

	<u>Preliminary Pilots Reports of Watercraft</u>		
	<u>Sighted</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Damaged</u>
This Week (29 Jul - 4 Aug)	650	122	85
Last Week (22-28 July)	1283	276	22
Weekly Average (since 1 Apr 68)	394	61	73
Weekly Average (since 1 Jan 68)	292	45	59

Remarks:

Watercraft sightings were well above the weekly average of sighting noted since 1 April for the second straight week. The most active waterways were the Song Ca near Vinh and the Nguan Nay near Quang Khe. POL carrying sampans were attacked on the Song Ca. On the Nguan Nay, watercraft were sighted throughout the week in the vicinity of the major storage area at Tien Luong and at Quang Khe. Tien Luong is located about 7 miles upstream from Quang Khe. Twenty-six sampans attacked near Tien Luong resulted in secondary fires and explosions. Along with the smaller indigenous craft, pilots reported large motorized craft operating in the Quang Khe area.

Logistic Activity Between the 19th and 20th Parallels

Preliminary readouts from photographic coverage of the area between the 19th and 20th Parallels [ ] did not detect any significant logistic developments. The evidence set forth above regarding the area south of the 19th Parallel, however, suggests that these activities are also continuing at a high rate between the 19th and 20th Parallels.

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP82S00205R000200080006-9

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP82S00205R000200080006-9

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP82S00205R000200080006-9

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP82S00205R000200080006-9

~~SECRET~~

25X1

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP82S00205R000200080006-9

Approved For Release 2005/04/22 : CIA-RDP82S00205R000200080006-9